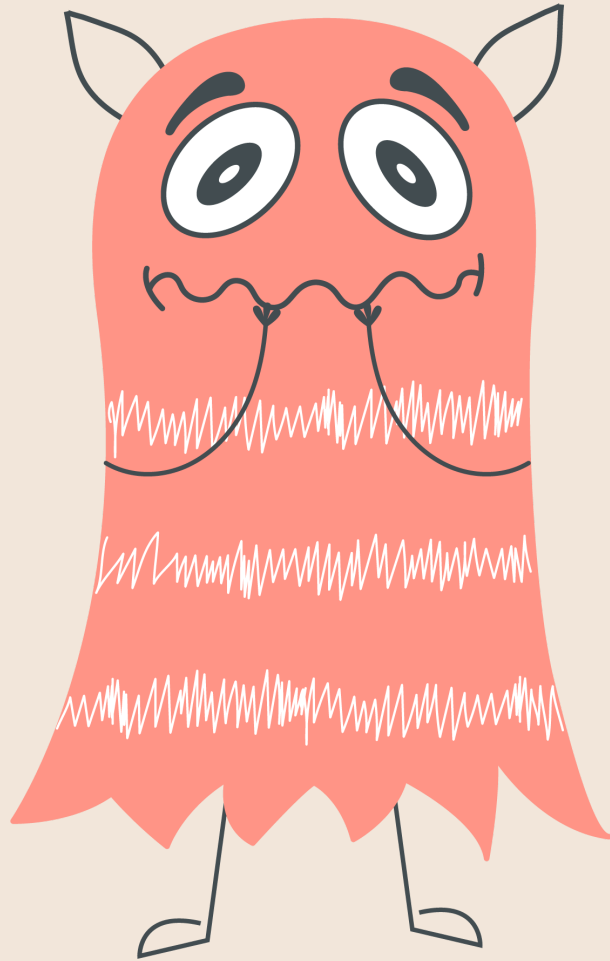




**WHY DO I
WORRY?**



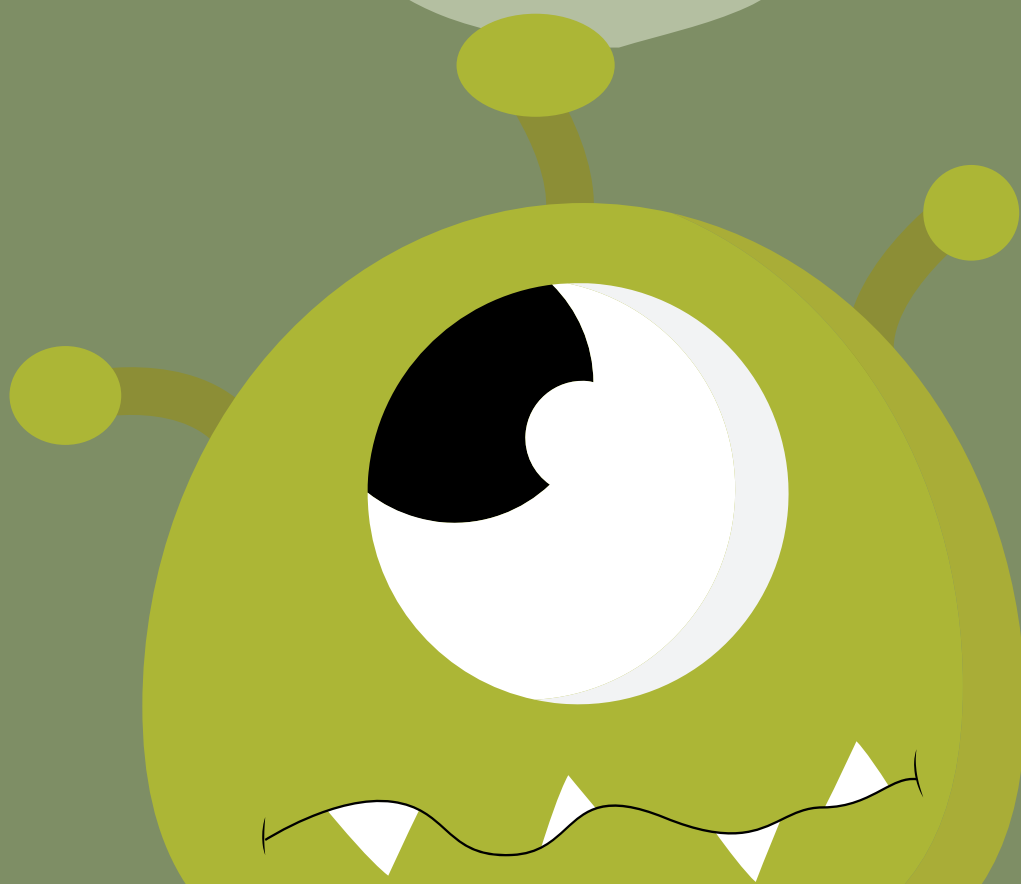
Everyone worries, that's
part of being human.



Worries are thoughts in our
head that we often can't
control.

Worries are thoughts about things that *might* happen that could harm or upset us.

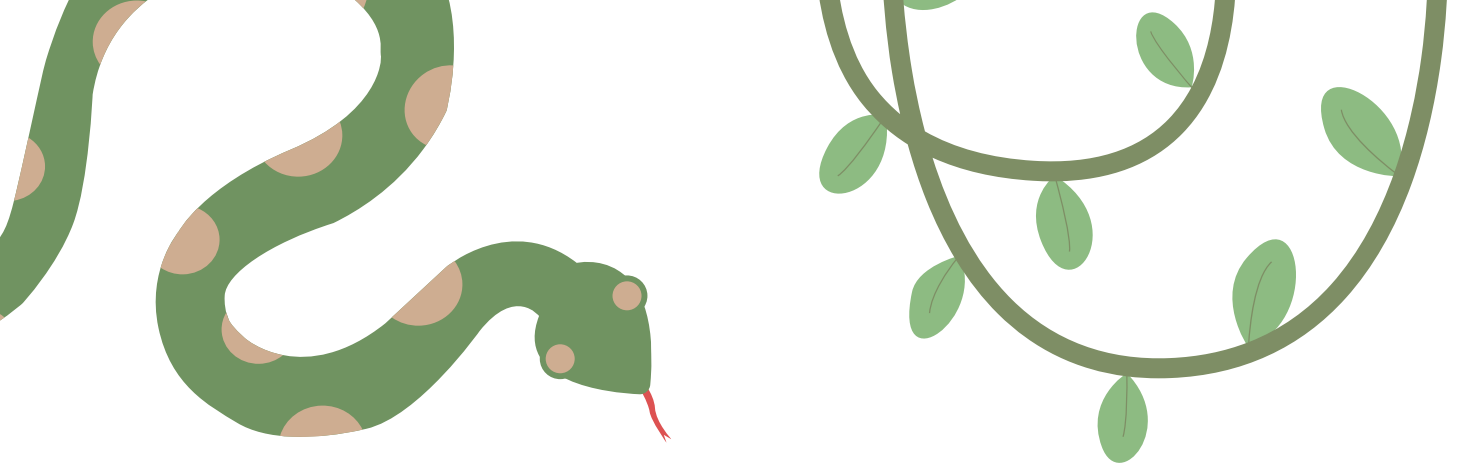
They help to keep us safe.



Some things you may worry
about are:

Doing well in school
Being liked by your friends
Your family
The dark
Going to the toilet
Being away from home
Spiders
Getting hurt





Many, many years ago, worry came in handy when we lived in scary places like caves and jungles.

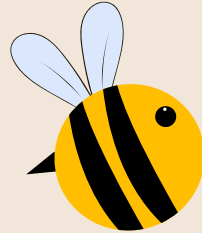
By helping us to find things around us that could harm us.



Imagine you are a cavemonster,
alone in the jungle. There are lots
of trees and it is very dark.



What do you think
you might be
worrying about?



Some things you might
worry about are;

- Getting lost
- Not being able to see
- Falling over
- Wild animals and insects
- The weather



Back then, worry allowed us
to react very quickly to
something dangerous.

Such as a snake, or a lion!



It prepared our bodies
so that we were able
to quickly run away.



Today, our minds still act like
we live in those dangerous
places even when we're safe
in our homes.



Our brains are
always on the
look out for things
that can harm us.



Some people may think like this all the time, even when they are somewhere safe.

People who worry too much
can have something called
anxiety.

This is when worrying starts
to affect your day to day life.



I don't want to
leave the house

What if no one
likes me

Something
might hurt me

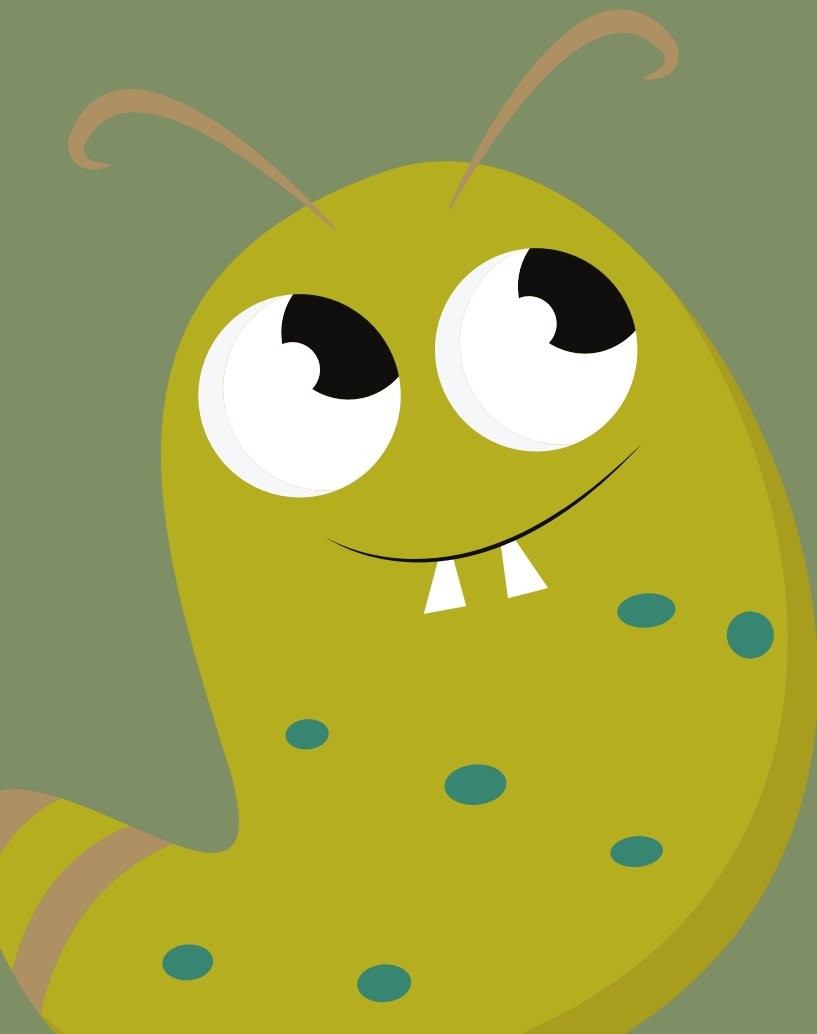
What if I do
something
wrong

Don't leave me
on my own

I'm scared of
the dark

It's important to let a grown up know if you think you are worrying too much. For example, if worry keeps you awake at night.

Remember, everyone worries from time to time. That's part of being human - or monster!



QUESTIONS TO ASK:

? What do you worry about?

Give the child time to tell you what they worry about and talk through how this worry affects them using the questions below.

? How does worrying make you feel?

Talk about the mental effects such as scared/sad/lonely, validate the feelings and reassure them that this is normal.

? How does your body feel?

Talk about the physical effects such as fast heartbeat, feeling breathless, sweating, feeling hot.

? What helps you feel calm?

Discuss what helps the child to feel calm - is it cuddling a teddy, doing an activity such as colouring/painting, speaking with a grown up etc.

? What should you do if you are worried?

Talk to a grown up they trust.

PSST...DID YOU LIKE OUR MENTAL HEALTH MONSTERS?

Then keep your monster eyes peeled for our new Monster Cards - coming soon!

- Over 30 emotion flashcards
- Empowerment questions
- Mindfulness exercises
- Promotes good mental health and self awareness

